

Remarks Concerning Amendments

In the Office Action mailed August 17, 2006, the Examiner has revised the earlier election requirement. The Examiner now requires that Applicant elect between four (4), allegedly, patentably distinct species, for prosecution in this application. The Examiner eliminated the species of **Fig. 2** and identifies the species described below. Because the application contained multiple dependent claims which would be directed to more than one species, Applicant has rewritten the claims to eliminate the multiple dependent claims and has added new claims to capture the subject matter removed from the multiple dependent claims. Applicant also deletes "etc." from claims 1-4. As a result of the Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-22 are pending in this application, and claims 1-4 continue to be independent claims. No new matter is added by these amendments and these amendments are fully supported by the specification.

In view of the Preliminary Amendment, additional claims fees are due for two (2) claims in excess of twenty (20) claims. Applicant respectfully requests that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375 for two (2) claims in excess of twenty (20) claims in the amount of \$100.00. In the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicant and those determined by the PTO, please charge or credit such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375.

Response to Election of Species Requirement.

Applicant has reviewed the amended claims and has identified claims, which are associated with each species.

<u>Species:</u>	<u>Associated Claims:</u>
Species I (Fig. 3)	Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, and 11-22
Species II (Fig. 6)	Claims 2-4, 6, 8, and 10-22
Species III (Fig. 8)	Claims 1-3, 11-13, and 17-19
Species IV (Fig. 10)	Claims 1, 2, 4, 14-16, and 20-22

The Examiner indicates that no claim is generic to the identified species. Nevertheless, Applicant maintains that: claim 1 is generic to Species I, III, and IV; claim 2 is generic to Species II-IV; claims 3, 11-13 and 17-22 are generic to Species I and III; and claims 4, 14-16, and 20-22 are generic to Species II and IV. **In response to the outstanding Office**

Action, Applicant hereby elects Species I (Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, and 11-22), without traverse, for prosecution on the merits and request further consideration of this application in view of this election.

Conclusion:

Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. Because Applicant maintains that claims generic to Species I-IV are allowable, Applicant maintains that claims 1-22 now are allowable, and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of these claims. If the Examiner believes that an interview with Applicant's representatives, either in person or by telephone, would expedite prosecution of this application, we would welcome such an opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS, L.L.P.

Date: August 24, 2006

By 

James B. Arpin
Registration No. 33,470

BAKER BOTTS, L.L.P.
The Warner, Suite 1300
1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2400
Tel.: (202) 639-7700
Fax: (202) 639-7890

JBA/djw